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scriptions of the then existing fiscal institutions. He never hesitates to explain technical terms, doubtless at the expense of much patient thought, but saving thereby infinite perplexity to a reader left to determine their meaning inductively.

The chapters are accompanied by careful analyses, and we hope that the author will adopt a practice but too rare among his countrymen—that of supplementing his work with an index.

Readers of the present volume will look with interest for that promised upon the second period of Louis XVI.'s reign.

J. H. R.

English Trade and Finance Chiefly in the Seventeenth Century. By W. A. S. HEWINS, A. B. Pp. xxxv. and 174. London: Methuen & Co. 1892.

The story of England's constitutional development has proven so absorbing to England's historians, that they have devoted themselves chiefly to this aspect of her history. It is of comparatively recent years only that attention has been given to the conditions and causes which lay often times at the root of these striking political changes. A work upon English economic history can hardly fail to be welcome, even if it contains little that is new, and the conditions under which it is published preclude original investigation.

The work of Mr. Hewins forms one of University Extension Manuals published by Methuen & Co. In it we look for a popular statement of familiar facts. It is, however, gratifying to note that the author has made a larger use of hitherto unpublished or neglected materials than was to have been expected. This does not prevent the work from being in the main a condensation of the work of previous writers, notably Cunningham and Thorold Rogers, a fact which, it should be added, the author in no wise attempts to conceal. The author has done his work well, and his little book will no doubt create an interest in English economic history, in circles which the ponderous tomes of other writers would utterly fail to reach.

Mr. Hewins is at his best in the introduction, where he gives a general survey of economic literature during the period covered by his work. It is a convenient summary of the works which were published during the era, and gives an excellent idea of the prevailing tone of these writings. The body of the book is made up of chapters on monopolies, trading companies, the working classes and commercial treaties, the chapters being, as the author tells us, a part of a university extension course in economic history. Trading companies are treated at some length, and we find instructive notices, not only of the prosperous East India Company, but especially of the less successful

ventures of a similar sort which were projected to control trade in other parts of the world. In these days of labor agitation the greatest interest will centre in the entertaining chapter on the working classes. Here we have a lucid account of apprenticeship, wage regulation, wages and conditions of labor, which instinctively call up comparisons in the reader's mind with conditions of to-day. It has seemed advisable to speak of the individual chapters, since each stands practically for itself, and the bond of union between them is rather in the class of subjects than in the continuity of treatment.

R. P. F.

Imperial Federation, the Problem of National Unity, by GEORGE R. PARKIN, M. A. Pp. xii, 314, with map. New York and London. Macmillan & Co., 1892.

I remember a professor of economics in a German University once producing a map of the world and pointing out, as an object lesson to his students, that, although published in Leipzig, it had as a title in the corner, not "*Die Welt*," but one much more generally intelligible, viz., "*The World*." With the political future of all this widely diffused English-speaking race, excepting, of course, the United States, the book before us deals. Can the English colonies be brought, and ought they to be brought, not merely into friendly relations, but into organic connection by means of a great national federation? Has the capacity of the English nation for political organization reached its utmost limit? "For British people," the author truly says, "this is the question of questions. In the whole range of possible political variation in the future there is no issue of such far-reaching significance, not merely for our own people, but for the world at large, as the question whether the British Empire shall remain a political unit for all national purposes, or, yielding to disintegrating force, shall allow the stream of national life to be parted into separate channels."

The change of opinion in regard to federation is a fact upon which great stress is laid. Twenty-five years ago there appears to have been a widespread belief, in official circles as well as elsewhere, that with the hoped-for general adoption of free trade and universal peace nothing was to be gained from retaining the colonies; a complete political independence being the inevitable outcome of existing conditions. A very marked and significant reaction has, however, taken place, even if the sentiment in favor of federation is not quite so universal as the author endeavors to prove it to be. He is himself an ardent advocate of a closer and more permanent union. He has, we infer, devoted much time to the advancement of this cause in the colonies, in this way familiarizing himself with popular sentiment.